

# VILLAGE OF TRUMANSBURG DEER MANAGEMENT REPORT

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PREPARED BY BERND BLOSSEY

The deer management program in the Village of Trumansburg began on 19 September 2014 and has continued through January 2015. This report is based on data provided by participants (up to 1/14/2015), who are asked to report their observations, fate of every arrow shot, and disposal of venison. Shooting days are usually weekends and evenings.

**Number of locations:** 9 (10) (deer take was 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 3x10, and 22, respectively)

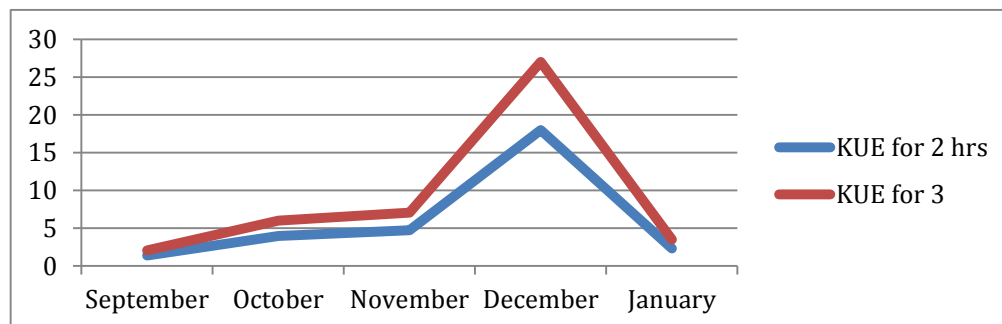
**Number of participants:** 11 individuals made between 1 and 24 outings (total 122). They killed on average 7.8 deer (range: 1-21).

**Total number of deer killed:** 78 with in Sept: 32; in Oct: 16; in Nov: 11; in Dec: 1; in Jan: 18. There were 12 males, 66 females, and only 4 with horns.

**Deer use:** The majority of the venison was donated to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier (>1,000 pounds), followed by local churches, village landowners and hunter consumption.

**Average distance of deer travel after hit:** 50 yards (range 0-150)

**Participant's effort:** With each outing lasting about 2-3 hours, the graphic below shows the KUE (Kill per Unit Effort) that is the time required to kill a deer over the activity period. It is expected that KUE will increase as the



deer population decreases. The spike in December is related to few outings and potentially the gun hunting season making deer more cautious. KUE is very favorable again now. Using total hours and total deer kill over the 5 months it took 2.8 hrs per deer or 4.2 hrs per deer for 2 or 3 hrs a participant was in stand, respectively. That is extremely favorable compared to other hunting efforts in the area (50-80 hours per deer in the regular Cornell hunting program).

**Number of deer hit but not initially recovered:** 17 were hit of which at least 5 were recovered later. This non-recovery rate we try hard to reduce, but in many instances we are not allowed to enter properties where deer may expire due to landowner preferences. This is a much lower rate than usually reported by others (50-80%).

**Problems encountered:** One neighbor interference during the first weekend but none since. The ability to find deer in dense brush, even with the help of tracking dogs is limited at the enormous deer densities still encountered.

**Recommendations:** Even now large aggregations of deer are reported from landowners and participants. Two weeks ago individuals reported seeing groups of 26, 17 and 11 the same evening in separate locations across the village. Deer group up at this time of year. While the initial goal of 80 deer has almost been reached, the estimation of about 100 deer in the village was obviously an underestimation. Instead of waiting for next fall and recruitment of newborns in June, it is recommended by the Oversight Committee to extend the program for an additional 2 months to take additional deer. Deer are still readily coming to bait, although temperatures are not as amenable for participants. Finding additional locations in the village to target sub-herds would be a high priority as well. In some locations, deer have become extremely smart. A flyover deer count using infrared cameras will take place in March to get an accurate estimation of the current village deer population.